

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IGA-02 AID-05 IO-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /077 W

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R 041405Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7691

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, JO, IS

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF US AID-FUNDED PROJECT BY MILITARY  
GOVERNMENT

1. MICHAEL SHEEHAN, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK, HAS INFORMED CONGEN OFFICER THAT ONE OF HIS ORGANIZATION'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, FOR WHICH USAID FUNDS WERE TO BE UTILIZED, HAS BEEN CANCELLED BY GOI MILGOV FOR JENIN REGION. PROJECT INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION OF BOY'S SCHOOL FOR VILLAGE OF JABA', LOCATED SOUTH OF JENIN ON MAIN NABLUS-JENIN ROAD. SIXTY PERCENT OF EXPENDITURES, \$7,098 OUT OF TOTAL COST OF \$11,830, WERE TO BE FROM USAID GRANT NO. NESA-G-1184. (REMAINDER TO BE FINANCED BY VILLAGERS THEMSELVES.)

2. ACCORDING TO MR. SHEEHAN PROJECT HAD BEEN GIVEN PRELIMINARY MILGOV APPROVAL, AS WELL AS APPROVAL BY USAID, AND ALL PLANS WERE FINALIZED SAVE ACTUAL SIGNING OF PROJECT AGREEMENT BY CRS, VILLAGE LEADERS, AND MILGOV'S OFFICE. BEFORE ACTUAL SIGNING COULD TAKE PLACE, HOWEVER, ONE RESIDENT OF JABA' VILLAGE WAS IMPLICATED AS MEMBER OF FATAH. AS IS OFTEN CASE IN THESE SITUATIONS, MILGOV LED SMALL DETACHMENT OF ISRAELI TROOPS TO

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VILLAGE TO BLOW UP ALLEGED FATAH MEMBER'S HOUSE. WHILE MILGOV

WAS ON SCENE, SEVERAL YOUNG VILLAGERS, LED BY OWNER OF HOUSE, THREW STONES AT MILGOV AND TROOPS. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, MILGOV INFORMED CRS THAT PLANNED PROJECT WAS CANCELLED WITHOUT GIVING A FORMAL REASON. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN RESPONSE TO ORAL INQUIRY, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER TOLD CRS INFORMALLY THAT CANCELLATION WAS DUE TO "PROBLEMS IN THE VILLAGE". SHEEHAN IS CONVINCED ACTION WAS TO "PUNISH THE VILLAGE" DUE TO MILITARY GOVERNOR'S PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT OR BECAUSE OF VILLAGERS' DISRESPECT FOR GOI AUTHORITIES.

3. COMMENT. SINCE MILGOVE'S APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY CRS, SHEEHAN IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF CASE. HE FEELS THAT, WITH TIME FOR SITUATION TO SETTLE, APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING "AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS" IF CRS PROPOSES PROJECT AGAIN. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT DEPT SHOULD BE AWARE OF INCIDENT AS IT INVOLVES ARBITRARY CANCELLATION, WITHOUT FORMAL EXPLANATION, OF PROJECT INVOLVING USG FUNDS. IN LIGHT OF SHEEHAN'S BELIEF THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO REACTIVATE PROJECT AFTER SOME DELAY, BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE NOT TO RAISE MATTER WITH GOI, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME.  
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